A memorial from the depressed classes.

396. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to mention:—

(a) whether the Government have received a petition or memorial dated 1st September 1926 from the depressed classes of Cochin State;

(b) whether any reply has been sent to the petitioners and, if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(c) if no reply has been sent, whether the request contained therein has been considered by the Government and, if so, whether the Government have now come to any decision in the matter, and if the answer is in the affirmative, what is the decision arrived at ;

(d) if no reply has been sent to the petitioners, whether the receipt of the petition or memorial has been acknowledged ; and, if not, to give the reason for not acknowledging it till now ;

(e) the reason for making the acceptance of any other religion a ground of disqualification for enjoying the concession referred to in the petition or memorial ;

(f) whether the Government will state after making enquiries what is the policy followed by the Travancore Government in this matter and whether our Government have any objection in adopting the policy of the Travancore Government and, if there is any objection, what is the objection?

Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes ; copy of the order is appended (*Vide Appendix II.*)

(c) (d) and (e). Do not arise.

(f) In Travancore the concessions enjoyed by the depressed communities are continued to them when they become converts. In view of the order appended, the latter part of the question does not arise.

Tenders invited by the Forest Department.

397. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) why tenders have been invited by the Forest Department for contracts in the areas served by the Tramway for three years while the Diwan-President assured in the last session that the fate of the Tramway could be decided after scrutinising the work for some time and when the Special Finance Committee is yet to submit their report;

(b) to place on the table a list of contractors (loading, felling, etc.,) who commenced their work with agreements entered into by Mr. Alwar Chetty, the then Conservator and subsequent Conservators, who have not yet completed their work nor taken back the first deposit, they have made to the Government;

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APPENDIX II.

(Vide Answer to Question No. 396.)

Dis. No.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction,
Trichur,
3rd February 1927.

Memo.

Reference:—Correspondence ending with Diwan's Proceedings, dated 26th January 1927, C. No. 4805/1101, Local and Miscellaneous Department.

2. Letter dated 19th Makaram 1102, from Rev. Fr. M. P. Petros, Mulanturutti.

The petitioners referred to may be informed that Government have been pleased to order that in the case of pupils belonging to the depressed classes, a change of religion will still entitle them to the educational concessions they are now eligible for.

(Sd.) DIRECTOR.

To

Rev. Fr. Petros.

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